

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01122 221520Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-11 ACDA-05 /080 W

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R 221205Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3555

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

USMISSION PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1122

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IN, CH

SUBJ: INDIAN CIVIL OFFICIAL IN LADAKH COMMENTS ON
BORDER INCIDENTS

1. THE HEAD OF THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION IN LADAKH TOLD AN EMBOFF JANUARY 20 THAT THE CHINESE CONTINUE TO PRECIPITATE OCCASIONAL INCIDENTS IN DISPUTED AREAS OF LADAKH AND NORTHERN UTTAR PRADESH. TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, NONE OF THESE INCIDENTS HAVE RESULTED IN BLOODSHED.

2. BY WAY OF EXAMPLE HE SAID THAT LAST OCTOBER 2 A GROUP OF CHINESE ON HORSEBACK RODE INTO A TINY SETTLEMENT IN THE NUBRA VALLEY AREA, LADAKH, DURING THE NIGHT. THE SETTLEMENT IS POPULATED BY UNARMED LADAKHI CIVILIANS, FLIES AN INDIAN FLAG, AND IS "GUARDED" BY A NEARBY INDIAN TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP) OUTPOST.

(NOTE: THE ITBP IS A PARAMILITARY FORCE MOSTLY RECRUITED FROM THE INDO-TIBETAN BORDER AREAS. IT IS COMMANDED BY AN INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE UNDER THE
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 01122 221520Z

GOI DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SECURITY WHICH IS RESPON-

SIBLE TO THE CABINET SECRETARIAT. END NOTE.)

3. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL, ALL OF THE TIBETAN IRREGULARS AS WELL AS THE LADAKHIS RAN OFF IN CONFUSION WHEN THE BAND OF CHINESE RODE INTO THE SETTLEMENT. WORD OF THE INCIDENT REACHED HIS HOME IN LEH AT TWO IN THE MORNING. HE SAID THAT FOUR HOURS LATER THE PRIME MINISTER WAS IN THE SITUATION ROOM AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. THE CHINESE CONTENTED THEMSELVES WITH REPLACING THE INDIAN FLAG WITH A CHINESE ONE. THEY THEN RODE AWAY.

4. THE OFFICIAL CONTINUED THAT THE CHINESE OCCASIONALLY CARRY OUT SUCH FLAG PLANTING MISSIONS IN LADAKH AND IN NORTHERN UTTAR PRADESH. IN REGARD TO THE LATTER AREA, HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE DISPUTED BARAHOTI ENCLAVE IN WHICH THE STRATEGIC NITI PASS IS LOCATED.

5. THE OFFICIAL AVOIDED ANSWERING A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THERE HAVE BEEN ANY BORDER INCIDENTS IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

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